Dewan's reply.—You say you want money for the repair of roads and the two drainage channels, Kala *thodu* and Pattini *thodu*. Your Council has a balance of a little over Rs. 6,000, but you say that you are utilising that amount for the acquisition of lands for your office and for a night-soil depôt. The latter is very necessary, but I would suggest the postponement of the construction of a building for your office. You may continue to hold your office for some time more in a rented building and utilise part of your balance on the works referred to by you.

Member.—A sum of Rs. 6,000 is necessary for acquiring the sites alone.

Dewan.—All that I can say is that you should submit definite proposals and say that so much money is needed. A loan from Government to the extent of the additional funds required would be a more acceptable proposition.

In regard to currency, that is a question of sovereign privilege, and a consideration of which is beset with great difficulties. Your representations will be borne in mind.

(2) Medical Relief.

107. Medical aid in Travancore with special reference to the opening of a dispensary at Kadapra.

Mr. Narayanan Ramavarman Tampan (Member, Tiruvalla Taluk) first thanked the Dewan for his visit to Kadapra, the first made by a Dewan, and represented that the people of the locality were being subjected to considerable hardship owing to want of means of communication. They had been complaining of the condition of the Mavelikara-Tiruvalla road for several years in the past and had not had their prayers fulfilled yet. He begged that that road might be put in proper order with the necessary bridges. It would be better to transfer the control of the whole road to one P. W. Division instead of to two Divisions, namely, Quilon and Kottayam, as was the case at present.

The Member complained of the shortage of expenditure in medicines and drugs and said that no medicines were available in the medical institutions of the State and that consequently the poor people suffered. The suggestion he had to make for more effective medical aid being given was the creation of Medical Boards in each taluk. He then suggested the starting of a medical magazine in which details of departmental information might be given together with the latest information on the recent developments of medical science. Medical aid in maternity cases was a subject in which the immediate attention of Government ought to be given, especially in rural and interior parts, the Medical Officers in charge of those institutions being particularly instructed to attend promptly to such cases. Lady Medical Officers ought to be employed in larger numbers, and arrangements should be made for the manufacture of drugs locally. In regard to the want of a dispensary for Kadapra, the Member described the hardship they were put to for want of a medical institution there. It was a subject brought to the notice of Government more than once and it yet remained unredressed. They were prepared to give the necessary building. Though the Tiruvalla Hospital was only 5 miles distant, they had to travel about 15 miles to reach it and the only other institution near them was the one at Mavelikara, the distance to which was even greater. The Member finally put in a strong plea for more Ayurvedic institutions and for the supply of good drugs to them from the Pharmacy in Trivandrum. It was also desirable to have more herb gardens.

Dewan's reply.—With regard to the Alanturutti bridge, I have already said that the sanctioned amount will be utilised this year and the work completed as soon as practicable.

As regards the supply of medicines to hospitals, I am informed that the stock of medicines in the Department is quite sufficient and that large quantities of the same are being distributed. If poor people are not given medicines, it is not the

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fault of the Government or of the Head of the Department, but it is the fault of the local Medical Officer, and if you put in complaints against the individual officers concerned they will be enquired into.

A midwifery class is being now conducted in Quilon, and 13 women are receiving instruction in that school. In the Women and Children's Hospital, Trivandrum, 12 women are being trained as nurses. Thus, in the two institutions together, 25 women are receiving instruction in medical aid. A number of midwives who have already received the requisite training have been posted to various hospitals.

Your suggestion to have a Medical Board in each important station composed mostly of non-officials seems good and the Government will take it up for consideration. As regards a dispensary at Kadapra, there is a hospital at Tiruvalla which is only 6 miles from the place. The Darbar Physician will, however, inspect the private dispensary at Kadapra and the question of giving a grant to it will be considered on receipt of his report.

108. Certain suggestions for popularising the Ayurveda system of treatment.

Mr. K. P. Martandan Vaidyan (Member, Chirayinkil Taluk) said that, of the three agencies of Government to safeguard the general health of the people, the youngest organisation was the Department of Ayurveda. It had at present under its management and control one Ayurveda College, one Ayurvedic Hospital and Dispensary, one Pharmacy, 72 grant-in-aid Dispensaries, 9 *Visha Vaidyasalas* and 2 grant-in-aid Ayurvedic schools. He then gave statistics in regard to the number of patients treated by the Department and the cost of maintaining the same and observed that the Ayurveda Department cost the State only one-sixteenth of the money spent on the Medical Department. The general public had assuredly greater faith in the efficacy of the Ayurvedic system than on the allopathic method of treatment. He then compared the increase of expenditure incurred on the two Departments in the years 1095 and 1096 and stated that the sum expended on the Ayurveda Department was negligible, though the total number of patients benefited by that Department was, by no means, small. In spite of the poor expenditure on the Ayurveda Department, a great deal of reform had been carried out in the Ayurveda College and in the Department generally with a view to render it more useful to the people. He had no doubt that the financial policy of the Government in regard to this useful Department was niggardly and his request was that a more liberal policy might be adopted in future.

In speaking of the Ayurveda College, the Member opined that no improvements worth the name had been introduced in the system of teaching or management of the institution. His proposal was that arrangements be made for giving the students a practical training in anatomy, with facilities for conducting *post mortem* examinations and for the dissection of dead bodies and for the appointment of teachers in the Ayurveda College being made by a Board and not by a single individual. This Board might also be utilised in connection with the revision of the curricula of studies and the conduct of annual examinations. He then dwelt on the necessity of increasing grants-in-aid to the Vaidyasalas and submitted that the sum at present sanctioned was so small as to lower the recipients in the estimation of the public, especially in view of the liberal amounts given to the subordinate servants of the Medical Department. The next point dealt with by the Member was the condition of the present Vaidyasalas. The suggestion of the Member was that all the existing Vaidyasalas might be abolished and that one Vaidyasala on the model of the Hospital and Dispensary at the capital might be opened in each taluk, presided over by a competent Vaidyan, the required medicines being supplied from the central Pharmacy at the capital. The Member further suggested that it be ordered that the Vaidyan should spend his time in affording medical relief and not in clerical work as was the case in the Medical Department. The pay of these Vaidyans should correspond to that of the officers in charge of Government veterinary institutions at least. The Member then suggested that the Director of Ayurveda should run a journal with a view to afford the men in the Department up-to-date information and knowledge on matters connected with the profession. From the list of grant-in-aid Vaidyans it could be seen that very few Ezhavas secured Government grants, and the Member urged that, in

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